

Message Text

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43

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SCCT-01 SY-05 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02

SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06

PRS-01 OMB-01 ACDA-05 NEAE-00 /076 W

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P R 091710Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3624

INFO AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY PARIS

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE ALGIERS 0063

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PINT, AG, FR

SUBJ: ALGERIAN OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER BOMBED: FRENCH SAID TO BE
IMPLICATED

1. ALGERIAN MEDIA ANNOUNCED JANUARY 8 THAT EXPLOSION
IN ALGIERS OFFICE OF FLN FRENCY LANGUAGE DAILY NEWSPAPER,
EL MOUDJAHID, ON JANUARY 3, ORIGINALLY ATTRIBUTED TO GAS
LEAK, WAS IN FACT OAS/SOA BOMB. REASON FOR INITIAL
REPORTING THAT EXPLOSION HAD BEEN RESULT
OF GAS LEAK, MEDIA SAY, WAS TO AFFORD SECURITY SERVICES
NEEDED SECRECY TO INVESTIGATE AND ROUND UP GANG RESPONSIBLE.
THIS TASK HANDLED BRILLIANTLY, MEDIA CONTEND, AND PICTURES
OF THESE ALLEGEDLY RESPONSIBLE, AND OF DEVICES THEY SAID
TO HAVE USED ACCOMPANY LONG ACCOUNTS OF THEIR PLOT
BOTH IN PRESS AND ON TV AND RADIO.

2. AFFAIR BILLED AS DIRECT ATTACK ON ALGERIAN REVOLUTION
BY OAS AND SOLDIERS OF ALGERIAN OPPOSITION
(SOA) UNDER GUIDANCE OF FRENCH INTELLIGENCE. GANG,
WHICH ALLEGED TO HAVE BEGUN ACTIVITIES IN OCT 1973
FOLLOWING FORMATION OF SOA, SAID TO HAVE BEEN RESPONSIBLE
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FOR BOMBINGS OF ALGERIAN CONSULATES IN MARSEILLES

(DEC 14, 1973) AND NICE (NOV 4, 1975), FOR BOMBS PLANTED AT AIR ALGERIE OFFICE IN LYON FEB 3, 1975, AT ALGERIAN FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY IN EUROPE OFFICES IN PARIS, LYON AND ROUBAIX ON JULY 26, 1975, AND AT ALGERIAN EMBASSIES IN BONN, ROME AND LONDON ON AUGUST 18, 1975.

3. PRINCIPALS IN AFFAIR IDENTIFIED AS FOLLOWS:

A. EL MOUDJAHID GANG:

I. CLAUDE PASCAL ROUSSEAU (AKA RENE ROUSSEAU): FRENCHMAN WHO LED EL MOUDJAHID ATTACK AND WHO RESPONSIBLE FOR NICE BOMBING AS WELL. ROUSSEAU DESCRIBED AS AGRICULTURAL LANDOWNER, FRENCH SPECIAL SERVICES OPERATIVE AND KEY MAN IN OPERATIONS AGAINST ALGERIA AND ALGERIANS LIVING IN EUROPE.

II. ROUSSEAU ASSISTED BY GREGORIO VILLAGRAN ANDERSON, A PARAGUAYAN WHO HAD WORKED FOR GUATEMALAN CONSULATE IN OTTAWA AND US AND WHO NOW RESIDENT IN MADRID, AND BY XAVIER LECUMBERI MARTINEZ, FRENCHMAN WHO HAS SPENT TIME IN ALGIERS AND WHOSE ROLE IN AFFAIR SAID TO HAVE BEEN MINIMAL. ANDERSON AND MARTINEZ TRAVELED UNDER FALSE NAMES AURELO BRETIN AND IGNAZIO TEDESCO AND USED ITALIAN PASSPORTS FOR EL MOUDJAHID OPERATION. A FRENCH, PAUL DANIEL, HANDLED FINANCES AND AN ALGERIAN MOHAMED HAROUN ALSO INVOLVED.

B. MASTERMINDS: BEHIND SCENES OPERATORS IDENTIFIED AS:

I. JACQUES BENET: FRENCH SPECIAL SERVICES OFFICER WHO WORKS UNDER COVER OF PLANNING DIRECTORATE IN RUE DE LA MADELEINE IN PARIS AND WHO RECRUITED ROUSSEAU IN 1973.

II. NOEL KAOUANE: FRENCHMAN WHO LEFT ALGERIA IN 1930 DID VARIOUS ANTI-ALGERIAN JOBS FOR FRENCH SPECIAL SERVICES, SPENT TIME IN JAIL IN ALGERIA IN 1960S AND FOUNDED SOA IN 1973.

III. COLONEL ROGER (NFUI): KNOWN SDECE OPERATIVE WHO FAILED IN EFFORT TO INFILTRATE FRENCH AGENTS INTO ALGERIA IN 1963 AND WHO IN CONTACT WITH ROUSSEAU.

4. AMERICAN CONNECTION: OBSCURE. ANDERSON AKA LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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BERTIN SAID TO HAVE KNOWN AMERICAN WOMAN GILLES MAXWELL, WHO EMPLOYED AUGUSTE WOLTZ, OPERATOR OF MADRID REAL ESTATE AGENCY WHICH COVERS CIA OPERATIONS.

5. COMMENT: ALGERIANS OBVIOUSLY CONCERNED. AMCONSUL ORAN REPORTS THAT PLANELOAD OF PASSENGERS SEEKING TO RETURN TO FRANCE LAST WEEKEND WERE ARBITRARILY DETAILED OVERNIGHT. SECURITY IN CONSTANTINE AREA WAS TIGHTER THAN

USUAL, OVER WEEKEND WITH POLICE ROADBLOCKS CHECKING IDENTITY OF TRAVELERS. WE NOTICED NO SPECIAL MEASURES IN ALGIERS.

6. THRUST OF MEDIA COVERAGE OF BOMBING IS TO LINK SOA INEXTRICABLY WITH OAS (PRESS SPECIFICALLY NOTES SIMILARITY OF INITIALS) AND WITH FRENCH INTELLIGENCE. LATTER CONNECTION SEEMS VERY TENUOUS ON STRENGTH OF FACTS AS PRESENTED BUT GOOD ENOUGH FOR LOCAL CONSUMPTION. WITH BOMBING FRANCE HAS AGAIN MOVED AHEAD OF US IN WEEPSTAKES FOR PUBLIC ENEMY NUMBER ONE SPOT IN ALGERIAN MEDIA.

7. MEDIA PORTRAYAL OF MOST PARTICIPANTS BEING FOREIGNERS WHO INFILTRATED ALGERIA IS IN LINE WITH STANDARD GOA LINE OF UNIFIED PEOPLE UNDER EXTERNAL ATTACK. WE FIND IT DIFFICULT TO BELIEVE IT CARRIED OFF SOLELY BY FOREIGNERS FROM ABROAD OPERATING WITHOUT ANY IN-COUNTRY ORGANIZATIONAL SUPPORT. PARKER

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